

## Message Text

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ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 /014 W

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R 161342Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 182

UNCLAS ABIDJAN 8634

FOR JOSEPH TERRANOVA, JR., SY/MGT, AND AF/EX

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC, AFSP, IV

SUBJ: PROPOSED NEW SECURITY POSITIONS

REF: STATE 221624

1. EMBASSY CONCURS IN ESTABLISHMENT OF TWO NEW SECURITY POSITIONS IN ABIDJAN AS PROPOSED REFTEL, BUT WISHES TO DRAW FOLLOWING POINTS URGENTLY TO YOUR ATTENTION.

2. INCREASE IN RSO PERSONNEL AGAIN POINTS UP UNUSUAL STAFFING PATTERN OF THIS MISSION. WELL OVER HALF AMERICAN PERSONNEL ASSIGNED HERE ARE INVOLVED WITH REGIONAL ACTIVITIES AND MANY OF THEM HAVE NO RESPONSIBILITIES AT ALL IN IVORY COAST. IN PARTICULAR OUR SECURITY SITUATION HERE IS GOOD, EXCELLENT BY AFRICAN STANDARDS. NEW RSO POSITIONS WOULD ONLY MARGINALLY IMPROVE SECURITY FOR THIS MISSION. JUSTIFICATION FOR THE INCREASE IN PERSONNEL PROVIDED BY RSO CLARKE NOTES THAT RSO COVERS TWELVE COUNTRIES AND THE TECHNICAL SECURITY OFFICE SERVICES TWENTY-TWO POSTS IN NINETEEN COUNTRIES. THE NEW POSITIONS ARE INTENDED TO PROVIDE GREATER FLEXIBILITY FOR CHIEFS OF MISSION AND OTHER AMERICAN PERSONNEL IN THE COUNTRIES SERVICED. FROM THIS EMBASSY'S VANTAGE POINT, WE CANNOT EVALUATE NEED FOR INCREASED SECURITY COVERAGE IN OTHER EMBASSIES EXCEPT ON RECOMMENDATION FROM DEPARTMENT AND RSO. IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO REFUSE TO ACCEPT THESE NEW POSITIONS, GIVEN THE DEPARTMENT'S EVALUATION AND SINCE GOIC HAS GIVEN NO RPT NO INDICATION OF UNHAPPINESS WITH THE INCREASING SIZE OF THIS MISSION.

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3. INCREASES IN REGIONAL SECURITY OPERATION, HOWEVER, ADD TO THE ALREADY CONSIDERABLE ADMINISTRATIVE BURDEN HERE. WE MUST PROVIDE HOUSING, GENERAL SERVICES, FISCAL, TRAVEL AND OTHER SUPPORT. AN INCREASE OF ONLY TWO POSITIONS PROBABLY CANNOT JUSTIFY AN OVER-ALL INCREASE IN OUR ADMINISTRATIVE ESTABLISHMENT, ALTHOUGH SOME OFFICES, PARTICULARLY GSO AND PERSONNEL, ARE ALREADY SEVERELY TAXED. ADDITION OF TWO NEW POSITIONS WITH REGIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES INVOLVING CONTINUAL TRAVEL, HOWEVER, WILL PUT A FURTHER STRAIN ON OUR VERY LIMITED MOTOR POOL. RSO PRESENTLY SHARES A VEHICLE WITH THE COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE, WHICH HAS RECENTLY BEEN CALLED UPON FOR GREATLY INCREASED ACTIVITY IN MOVING POUCHES AND COURIERS TO OTHER AFRICAN MISSIONS. WE BELIEVE RSO SHOULD HAVE A VEHICLE CONTINUALLY AT ITS DISPOSITION, BUT ARE UNABLE TO PROVIDE THIS SERVICE IN OUR PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. AS PART OF THE SUPPORT FOR THESE NEW POSITIONS, EMBASSY URGENTLY REQUESTS THE ASSIGNMENT OF ANOTHER SEDAN. WE ARE ALSO SEEKING A CARRYALL FOR THE COMMUNICATIONS UNIT. REQUEST SY/MGT AND MR. TERRANOVA GIVE SPECIAL AND PERSONAL ATTENTION TO PROVISION OF AN ADDITIONAL VEHICLE TO SUPPORT THE INCREASED SECURITY STAFF HERE.

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